Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Instructions: Situation Report

The Situation Report (Sit. Rep.) provides Senior Management with high level information on developing, ongoing or concluded incidents or events of interest.

The Sit. Rep. should be:

- Short: one to two pages, written factually and impartially;
- Concise: use every word as efficiently as possible;
- Clear: keep it simple and to the point and include only what matters to the reader;
- Reliable: provide accurate information; point out missing information or questions about the information; and
- Readable: use plain language and white space, subheadings, lists and other means to make reading easier.

The following describes the sections of a Sit. Rep.:

- **Title:** A few key words that describe the issue succinctly.
- **Purpose:** In one sentence, explain why the Sit. Rep. is being written. Information only; action (decision or final approval required); or briefing for upcoming meeting: specify date, time, location and with whom.
- **Issue:** In one sentence, identify the issues. Clarify misinformation generated by media or others; provide update on emerging issues; provide update on individual or a group posing a threat; and/or explain the impact of legal (or policy) changes for the RCMP.
- **Background:** In 3 or 4 bullets, provide enough background or contextual information to give an understanding of the issue. What is relevance of issue to RCMP; what are the implications; what is history of the issue; and what is being said about the issue and by whom?
- **Current Status:** Advise of the most salient and recent information available. Highlight the current status and/or progress to date in order that action can be determined. Status and evolution of emerging issue to date; status of investigation; and stage or phase new legislation or policy is at.
- **Strategic Considerations** (if applicable): Factors that could affect our ability to respond to the issue.
  Indicate sensitive or political elements to be considered; potential impact of the issues on the RCMP, our Minister, and/or the Government of Canada; inter-agency or interdepartmental issues to consider or cooperation, and specify significant obstacles or challenges that may hinder the RCMP's progress or handling of the issue; outline the potential outcome or risks if no action is taken; and indicate political statements (if any) made about this issue.
- **Strategic Communications** (if applicable): State internal and/or external communications considerations.
  Indicate national/media/public/political implications and if the DG, Public Affairs has been advised; impact on employees or operations and has a communications strategist been advised; has a communications plan been developed for both internal and external audiences; and attach existing media lines which may have been prepared.
- **Recommendations / Strategic Advice** (if applicable): Identify follow-up actions or advice.
  State strategic advice warranted on the issue; outline options; state critical dates and/or events of which Senior Management should be made aware; indicate who else should be notified of this information; and state areas that require further follow-up or research.
- **In Consultation with:** Identify groups or individuals consulted in preparation of this Sit. Rep. Indicate "Nil" if consultation was not required.
- **Prepared by:** Name and rank of writer.
- **Signature - Submitted by Name**
  - NHQ: Director General
  - Div.: Supervisor, Manager, NCO i/c or Director
- **Signature - Recommended by Name**
  - NHQ: Assistant Commissioner
  - Div.: Director, Director General or Deputy Criminal Operations Officer
- **Signature - Approved by Name**
  - NHQ: Deputy Commissioner
  - Div.: Criminal Operations Officer or Commanding Officer
- **Signature - Reviewed by Name**
  - NHQ: Senior Deputy Commissioner
  - Div.: Not Applicable or Commanding Officer

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Situation Report

Security Designation: Protected A

File Number:

K Division 2022-01-30 COVID 19-Trucker Convoy Blockade of Canada/USA Border

ISSUE:
• Truck Convoy/Blockade of Port of Entry (POE) at Coutts, Alberta.

BACKGROUND:
• Information from RCMP, CBSA and United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) report a convoy and blockade at the Port of Coutts on Sunday, January 30, continuing from January 29, 2022.
• The Port of Coutts operates 24 hours, and is the largest POE in Alberta. Hundreds of commercial and personal vehicles travel through this major thoroughfare on any given day.
• There are border crossings located at Coutts, Del Bonita, and Carway, Alberta. Coutts is the only 24-hour crossing.
• The Coutts POE is positioned on Highway 4 on the Canadian side, and I-15 on the USA side. Coutts is in the Milk River detachment area, Del Bonita is in the Raymond detachment area, and Carway is in the Cardston detachment area.

CURRENT STATUS:

• Information relayed from S/Sgt. Zanidean (part of consultative group with RCMP/CBSA/US Customs and Border Services) who consulted with CBSA: Jeryn Peters - Director of Intelligence and Acting Duty Executive (has decision-making ability for CBSA).
• The border hours are as follows: the Port of Coutts (operates 24 hours, 7 days a week); the port of Del Bonita (0900-1700 Monday to Friday); and Carway (0800-1800, daily except Saturdays).
• The port of Del Bonita is located on Alberta Highway 62, and is approximately 74 km west of Coutts (by car). The port of Carway is located on Alberta Highway 2, and is approximately 134 km west of Coutts (by car).
• The information given by Ms. Peters is as follows:
• Extending the border hours is not an option (no specific reason given).
• Other ports cannot open to commercial traffic due to lack of brokerage systems in place and unable to deal with the commercial vehicles that don't fall under their parameters for crossing (i.e. live/work within 200 km, etc).
• CBSA has BCPs that involve re-routing commercial traffic to Roosville, BC and to a commercial port south of Regina, Sask (possibly Estevan, Sask).
• CBSA is reluctant to put out any social media messaging regarding directing vehicles to specific (alternate) border crossings as they fear that those crossings will be targeted by protestors as well.
• US Customs and Border Services (contact: Jason Greene, Area Port Director) has advised that they are willing to open any port required and provide any assistance necessary, however, they require the agreement be reciprocated by CBSA.
• All other RCMP Districts in Alberta are reporting no disruptions, issues, or protests going on at this time (all activity from yesterday appears to have ended).
• RCMP will continue to monitor and respond to the situation.
• There is a coordination group involving RCMP and US Customs and Border Services. CBSA has been asked to have a representative present, however, only a part-time analyst has participated to date. Not having a decision-maker at the table makes it difficult to establish options and strategies.

Situation Report

Security Designation
Protected A

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS:

• CBSA has done a media interview disseminated at the local level and provided inaccurate information regarding the traffic status at the Coutts border crossing. It is requested that CBSA be engaged at the national level and a request made that, prior to issuing any statements or responding to media requests, that they engage K Division RCMP media personnel to ensure consistent and accurate messaging. Inconsistent messaging is causing confusion to the public and could potentially impact on RCMP operations if the travelling public makes decisions based on information that is not accurate.
• Social media messaging from RCMP accounts is being used heavily in the print media.
• Social media is being monitored, coverage is primarily positive toward law enforcement.

CONDUCT / CIVIL RISK ASSESSMENT:
• N/A

Signatures

Submitted by Sgt. Jennifer Barnes	Signature	Date Submitted (yyyy-mm-dd)
Recommended by A/Commr. John Ferguson	Signature	Date Recommended (yyyy-mm-dd)
Approved by A/Commr. John Ferguson	Signature	Date Approved (yyyy-mm-dd)
Reviewed by	Signature	Date Reviewed (yyyy-mm-dd)